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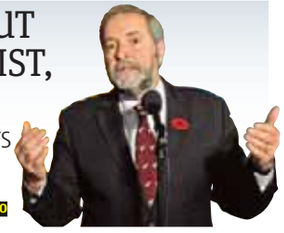
City prepares for 'quick-drop' bottle depots

Customers would drop items first, get paid later PAGE 3

A CRIMINAL, BUT NOT A TERRORIST, MULCAIR SAYS

OPPOSITION LEADER SAYS THERE'S NOT ENOUGH EVIDENCE TO CALL HILL ATTACK TERRORISM PAGE 10



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Chelsea Curran is seen shortly after being punched in the face by a man she claims she didn't know. She fears she was a victim of the "knockout game." COURTESY CHELSEA CURRAN

Woman fears she may be 'knockout game' victim

'Superman punch.'
Chelsea Curran and her friends say they didn't know attacker

JEREMY NOLAIS
jeremy.nolais@metronews.ca

Concussed and bruised, a Calgary woman fears a sinister game may have led to her being knocked out cold on a city sidewalk.

Chelsea Curran was walking with a group of friends around 2:30 a.m. Oct. 12 after partying at Twisted Element nightclub when, as she and her friends recount, a blue Honda Civic pulled up on an adjacent street.

A dark-skinned male hopped out of the vehicle and began punching people square in the face.

He reached Curran before she even realized what was happening.

"I remember thinking that he must have forgotten something at the bar," Curran recalled in an interview Tuesday. "Then he did like a running, Superman punch, he jumped into it. I fell backwards and hit my head on the ground. I was out for a second or two."

The 25-year-old says she and another man in the area were punched, but friend Justine Despins actually counted three victims. The male then ran back to his vehicle and it sped off.

It wasn't until a few days later that Curran learned of the "knockout game" that has caused concern in major U.S. cities.

The so-called game is most commonly played by teenaged or young-adult males, who challenge each other to swarm unsuspecting people and punch them in the head with the sole purpose of knocking them out.

Late last year, American media outlets reported at least seven random, knockout-style attacks in New York City. Deaths in cities like St. Louis, Chicago and elsewhere have also been linked to similar style attacks. Law-enforcement officials have expressed fears that gangs use the game as a form of initiation.

Calgary police confirmed Tuesday that a complaint about the attack involving Curran had been filed, but couldn't confirm whether there was any link to the knockout game.

She may not be the first Alberta victim, however, as Grande Prairie resident Cathy Rode went public in May with claims that her 12-year-old grandson Thomas Steidel had been punched in the face, fracturing his jaw. She said the incident was filmed and believed it to be linked to the knockout game.

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In Indonesia

Former Calgary teacher to be charged: Brother

Family members say the case against a former Calgary private school teacher in Jakarta, Indonesia, has been turned over to a prosecutor and charges are expected to be laid by week's end.

Neil Bantleman, who taught at Calgary's Webber Academy for a decade, was arrested July 14 after claims of sexual assault arose from kindergarten-aged students at Jakarta International School.

Bantleman and his wife, Tracy, teach at the school.

He's been held in a Jakarta jail for more than three months along with another teacher, but thousands have rallied around the pair and say no evidence has been presented to suggest they're guilty.

On Tuesday, brother Guy Bantleman said it's likely his brother will now be moved to a maximum-security prison.

"Neil has been in what I would classify as a minimum-security environment, with some freedoms and visitors," Guy said. "You're now going from (there to) gangsters to murderers to rapists — the full gamut of criminals. There is a concern for safety, which I think is going to be paramount."

Guy has been working on getting a formal statement from Canadian Foreign Affairs officials about his brother's status, but to no avail.

An inquiry to the federal minister from Metro Tuesday had not been returned at press time.

JEREMY NOLAIS/METRO

A customer returns boxes of beverage containers to a downtown bottle depot. ROBSON FLETCHER/METRO FILE

Calgary preps for quick-drop depots

Already in Edmonton. Beverly Bottle Depot in capital city rolling out quick-drop kiosk

ROBSON FLETCHER
robson.fletcher@metronews.ca

Calgary is paving the way for a new type of quick-drop bottle depot that would see customers simply drop off tagged bags of recyclables and get paid later.

"This use does not allow for any storage or sorting on site, and does not provide a refund on site," said Lisa Kahn of the city's land use bylaw sustainment team.

Kahn said a new bylaw has been drafted to allow for these types of facilities, which will go before city council on Dec. 8.

One such facility is set to open soon as a pilot project in Edmonton and quick-drop kiosks like these already exist in the United States, said Will Corpuz, member services co-ordinator with the Alberta Bottle Depot Association.

Customers need to first create an account, Corpuz said, then they can bring bottles in, put them in tagged bags associated with their account, and leave them to be picked up and sorted off-site. The operator later credits the customer's account for the containers.

"It's really easy," Corpuz said.

Kahn said the new bylaw is meant to both boost the number of drop-off locations in Calgary — the city is currently underserved, for its population — while also addressing many residents' concerns with noisy, smelly or unsightly bottle depots where storage and sorting does occur.

"New rules have been created to ensure that new depots are better managed and administration has the ability to enforce elements such as carts, garbage and other outdoor storage issues," she told city councillors Wednesday.

The new rules would not apply retroactively to existing depots, however, something Coun. Richard Pootmans described as "frustrating."

Enforcement

Daniel White, director of operations for the Beverage Container Management Board (BCMB), which issues permits to bottle depots across Alberta, said outdoor storage violations could lead to $200 fines per instance but are unlikely to lead to a depot's permit being pulled.

- The board only has four compliance officers, he added – three in Edmonton, and one in Calgary.
- Two permits were pulled last year, none in Calgary.

1 NEWS

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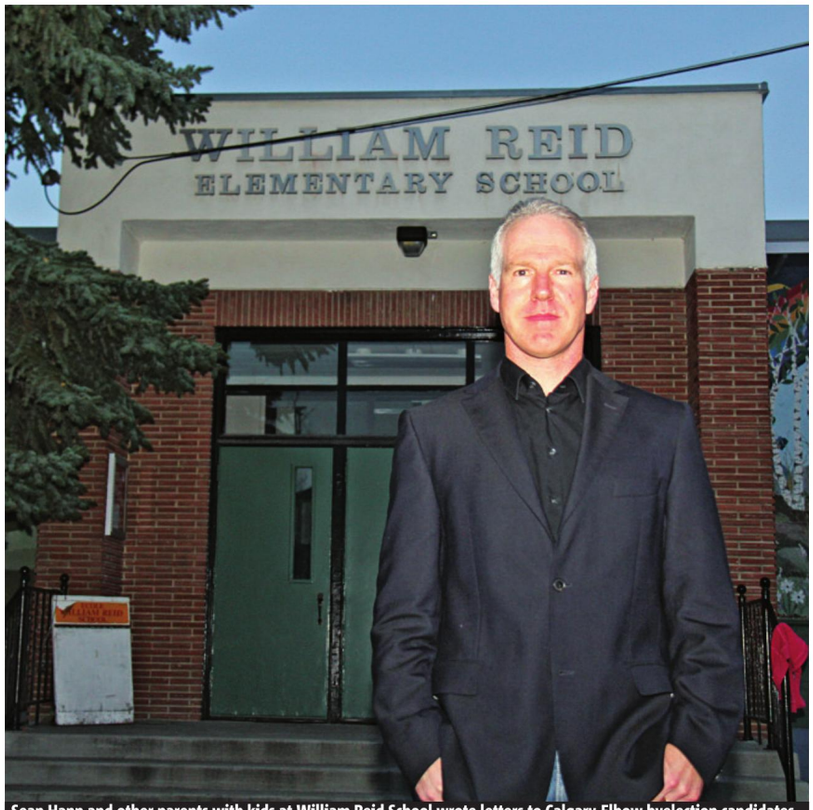

Sean Hann and other parents with kids at William Reid School wrote letters to Calgary-Elbow byelection candidates raising awareness about the need for modulars. METRO FILE

CBE has not received 'official conformation' of Calgary-Elbow modulars

Election pledge. Parent rejects notion that minister was playing favourites with William Reid School

One week after Alberta's education minister announced the controversial approval of two modular classrooms in the very riding where he was seeking a legislature seat, the city's public school board said it's received no "official confirmation" of the added space.

Gordon Dirks told parents of William Reid School Oct. 22, in a letter on his campaign website, that, "Given the school's burgeoning enrolment, two modular classrooms have been approved for William Reid School and should be in place for 2015-16 school year."

But opposition parties lashed out at the approval days before voters headed to the polls, pointing out a ranking produced by the Calgary Board of Education that indicated six schools had a more urgent need for modulars than William Reid. Both the Wildrose and Alberta Party have called on the provincial ethics commissioner to investigate the approval and a Liberal candidate called the announcement "political opportunism."

Dirks was elected Monday but due to a transition period was unavailable for an interview Tuesday or Wednesday, said press secretary Kathleen Range. She did, however, issue an emailed response to questions that clarified the minister's commitment.

"Last week, the minister notified the CBE chair (trustee Joy Bowen-Eyre) that modulars for William Reid and Cranston were strongly supported but that formal notification of its approved capital priorities would follow the Nov. 3 deadline (the date that the province told the CBE it needed to submit its modular request)," Range wrote.

Earlier in the day, during a technical briefing at CBE headquarters, superintendant for facilities and environmental services Frank Coppinger confirmed that the CBE had received no "official confirmation" of the William Reid modulars. But Sean Hann, chair of the William Reid parent council, said he doesn't believe Dirks was playing favourites.

"I wouldn't be surprised to see all the other names (on the modular list) approved for 2015-16," he said. "It's not like they said there was a special order for ours. So, I would expect we would still end up getting ours seventh." JEREMY NOLAIS/METRO

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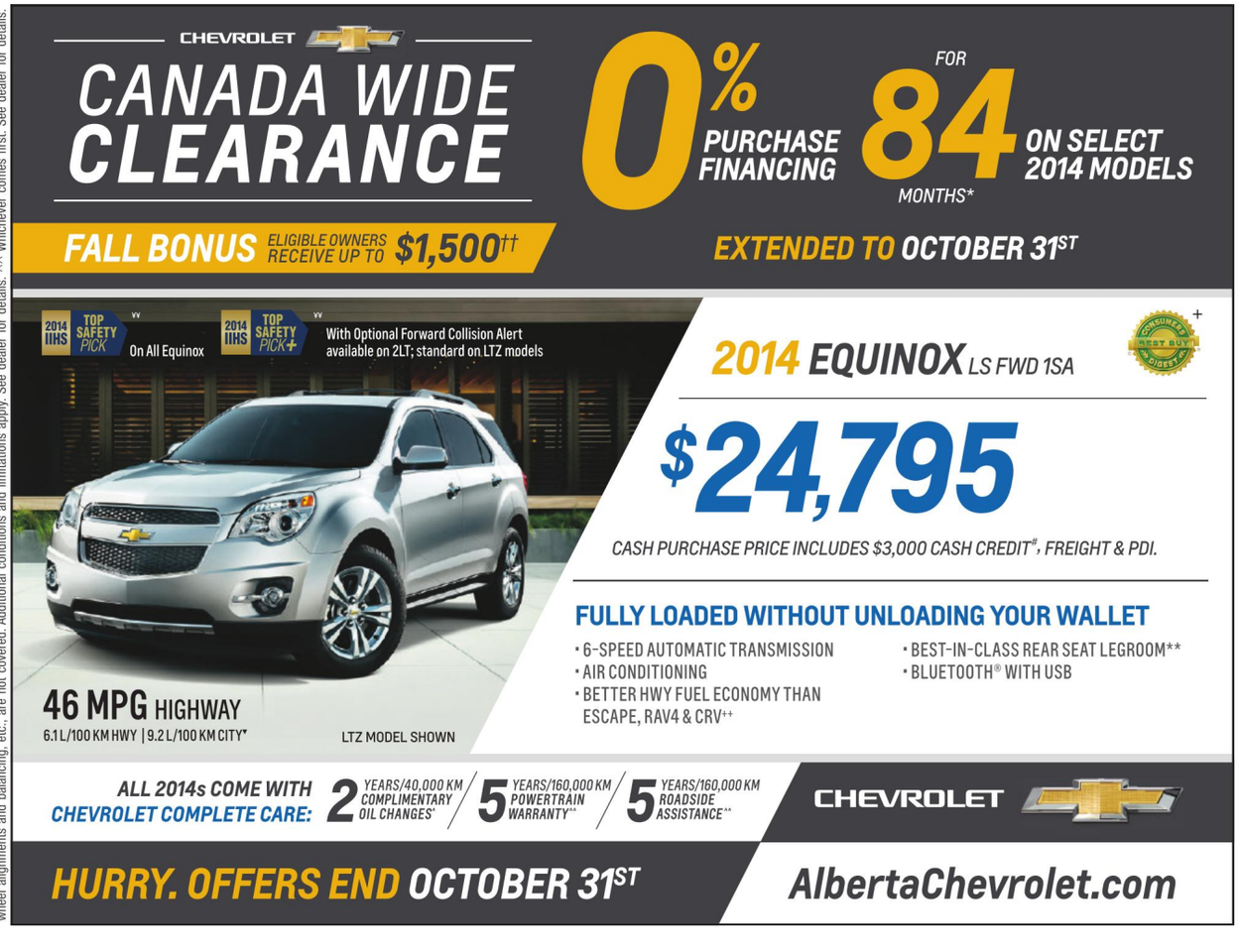
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A rendering of the proposed development. COURTESY BUSS MARKETING

Residents say condo is 2.5 metres too tall

'Flouting' bylaw.
Locals worry about shade cast by building and the 'tossing aside of our laws'

ROBSON FLETCHER
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Dozens of Inglewood residents, including the community association president, are urging city council to reject a proposed condo development along 9 Avenue SE that they say is too tall for the area — by about eight feet.

Dubbed Avli on Atlantic, the mixed commercial-residential building would rise to a height of 22.5 metres, which the Inglewood Community Association (ICA) said would "flout a two-decade-old bylaw restricting height to 20 metres" in a petition it's circulating against the project.

ICA president Bill Bakelaar said nearby residents are worried about the shade the building will cast, but in general: "The real concern is just the tossing aside of our laws."

Coun. Gian-Carlo Carra said he's open to hearing residents' concerns but described the 2.5-metre height difference as "extremely minor" and said the developers have done a "pretty good job of reaching out to the community" for feedback.

"Fairly late in the game, the community has decided that 2.5 metres is just this massive change, and I'm interested in figuring out what the issue is," Carra said.

Calvin Buss, who is handling marketing for the project, said the design was revised several times to minimize the impact of shading and the property owners, who operate the existing CarStar autobody shop on the site, "want to create a legacy for Inglewood."

"It's not just a square box," Buss said of the design by Calgary-based Sturgess Architecture. "It's a gorgeous building, and it's going to be a part of the character of the community for the next 85 years."

Bakelaar said the community association is "all for development, as long as it's within the rules and guidelines" for the area.

"We need development in Inglewood and on 9th Avenue, and we need to increase density," he said, adding that the "luxury" condos are "not a solution for more affordable housing" in the area.

Green light

Calgary Planning Commission has given the development the green light and a public hearing on the project is set for the city council meeting on Nov. 3.

Stolen vehicle

ASIRT investigates pursuit resulting in the injury of suspect

The Alberta Serious Incident Response Team (ASIRT) is investigating the police pursuit of a vehicle stolen in Calgary Tuesday night resulting in one suspect being seriously injured.

According to an ASIRT release, at around 8 p.m. on Tuesday the Calgary Police Service received reports of a stolen vehicle near the Drop-In Centre. The car was tracked by police helicopter, working with ground patrol members.

Police were unable to intercept the vehicle downtown and continued on MacLeod Trail where it was damaged. The car left city limits, so Okotoks RCMP became involved in the chase.

Eventually, the stolen vehicle was stopped by RCMP with a spike belt and the driver was taken into custody with help from a CPS K-9. It's at this point that the driver was seriously injured and transported to hospital for treatment.

ASIRT is continuing to investigate the incident and are trying to determine if the actions of the police were lawful and appropriate for the circumstances. METRO

Sex abuse trial

Therapy dog allowed in court

A Calgary judge is allowing a police therapy dog to sit with two child witnesses in an upcoming sex abuse trial.

Crown prosecutor Rosalind Greenwood said it may be the first time in Alberta, even in Canada, that a dog is to replace a court support worker. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Airdrie

Man sought after armed theft: RCMP

Airdrie RCMP are asking for the public's assistance regarding an alleged armed robbery at the Scotiabank on Main Street.

According to police, a woman was withdrawing cash from an ATM machine when a man approached her. He threatened to shoot the victim if she didn't comply with his instructions.

The man left the bank with an undisclosed amount of money in a vehicle described as a four-door beige/brown sedan with a dark interior. The victim wasn't injured.

The suspect is described as black, standing five foot seven to five foot 11 inches tall with an athletic build. He was wearing a grey jacket with blue jeans and a white T-shirt, as well as a black neck warmer. METRO

Funding

Alberta spending $70M on safety devices at seniors residences

Premier Jim Prentice is committing $70 million to put more sprinklers and other fire safety devices in seniors facilities.

Prentice says the work will begin as soon as possible and will focus on the centres at greatest risk.

Many of the 24,000 government-owned or supported seniors units were built before 1990, when sprinklers became mandatory.

The province estimates that $250 million is needed to get the sprinklers in all seniors homes.

NDP seniors critic David Eggen says the $70 million will assist only a fraction of the seniors homes, and that many more residents remain at risk. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Lines have been painted at the Calgary Soccer Centre to accommodate the soccer-like game futsal. COURTESY CALGARY MINOR SOCCER

Futsal teams move into Soccer Centre

Sport. The new Annex building at the facility has opened up space for U18 and U16 players

Indoor soccer's sister sport, futsal, is moving out of gymnasiums and settling into the Calgary Soccer Centre this November.

All Tier 1 teams in the under-18 and under-16 age groups will now be able to play on the east and west fields of the soccer centre.

"The players are definitely excited to be back in those facilities," said Cory Letendre, Calgary Minor Soccer's operations manager.

Calgary's futsal program, which runs under the Calgary Minor Soccer Association, began four years ago, but the sport was practised before then by soccer teams to help with player development.

The season opener will take place on Saturday, starting with U18 girls teams Chinook United 98 and South West United Napoli 99 facing off on the east field at noon. The U18 boys will follow at 1 p.m. with Chestermere United taking on the Villains 98 on the west field.

For now, the futsal program's U14, U12 and U10 teams will continue to play in gymnasiums around the city. Letendre said there hasn't yet been discussions about moving more age groups into the soccer centre.

"I'm sure the preference among parents would be to get out of gymnasiums," said Letendre. "But at this point in time, in communication with our clubs, it was just the U16s and U18s we were able to put back in."

YASMIN JASWAL/FOR METRO

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"The players are definitely excited to be back in those facilities."

Cory Letendre, operations manager, Calgary Minor Soccer Association

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Thousands of hours of work. Rapper Transit releases new video

Every viral video trend packed into one sounds like a lot to digest, but Calgary artist Transit made it happen, and fans aren't complaining.

"The song is an old song," said Daniel Bennett, or Transit, the artist behind the video. "It's always been a song that I still perform live on tour and I always wanted to have a visual for it but because it's kind of an older song it can't really ride the momentum of new music."

The video was a one-taker, filmed at a location in Fish Creek. Then, select frames were printed out, cut out and filmed again with animated on-the-spot effects creating a stop-motion video with hand visuals.

The team, including co-directors Dave Wallace and Justus Lowry, invested thousands of hours working on the short video. It took around 15 takes on film day, and many more hours creating the mixed media visuals after all was said and done.

"The hardest part about it was the one-shot part, so we filmed it in Fish Creek in July, where there's so many mosquitoes," said Bennett. "If you break character for a second you have to start the whole video again."

As for what's next? Transit can't say, because he hasn't figured out if the next far-fetched video concept is actually legal. HELEN PIKE/METRO

Rapper Transit released a video combining three viral trends: one-take videos, stop motion and animation. SCREENGRAB

City could revisit ban on retail pet sales

Success elsewhere. Toronto says such a move has taken strays off city streets

JEREMY NOLAIS
jeremy.nolais@metronews.ca

City councillors raised their hackles Tuesday as it appeared they could soon be involved in another hairy debate on the merits of banning retail pet sales.

On Monday, Metro spoke to a number of animal advocates and rescue groups who've taken to social media to criticize the yet-to-open The Top Dog Store. Owned by Marion and Robert Church, the same couple that previously ran Calgary's only remaining dog kennel out of the now closed Market Mall Petland, Top Dog will offer expanded kennel services and all the necessary accessories.

It appeared that Calgary city council would debate a ban on the retail sales of cats and dogs in 2012, but that never materialized.

Ward 11 Coun. Brian Pincott voiced support for the ban at the time and said Tuesday he would be willing to re-introduce the topic at city hall, should it come to that.

"The puppy-mill industry, which we know is horrible, is there to support and supply the pet store demand," Pincott said.

"If we don't have cats and dogs sold through pet stores, then people get them through reputable breeders or through the adoption process. And we have so many, so many cats and dogs that need good, forever homes."

Robert Church said Monday, however, his store would only support "reliable, ethical breeders," and his model received support from Coun. Sean Chu, whose ward includes Top Dog.

"People are still going to sell dogs," he said. "If we don't allow it legally, people are going to do it illegally. No matter what it's going to happen, just like drugs."

Chu said he would support a certification process for retail pet sellers, one that would subject such stores to an annual inspection by city bylaw officers.

"That will calm a lot of people — what happened is a few bad-apple (owners) have tainted the whole bucket," he explained.

The City of Toronto adopted a ban on retail sales of cats and dogs in 2011.

Mary Lou Leiher, a program manager with the animal services division in Canada's most populous city, said the move has been credited in part for a drop in animals being turned in to city-run shelters in recent years.

"There were some people (store owners) who weren't happy with it, but we did reach out to them so they could have animals for adoption in their stores — animals in our shelter, for example," Leiher said.

"It helps them to promote the other products that they're selling. When people get a new pet, then they need to get food and they need to get supplies, all those kinds of things. This gave them a chance to almost do a community service of sorts.… They adopted them out on our behalf. These were animals that were already homeless and they are fully spayed and neutered and vaccinated and checked by a vet."

The Top Dog Store planned for Calgary hasn't set an official opening date.

WITH FILES FROM ROBSON FLETCHER

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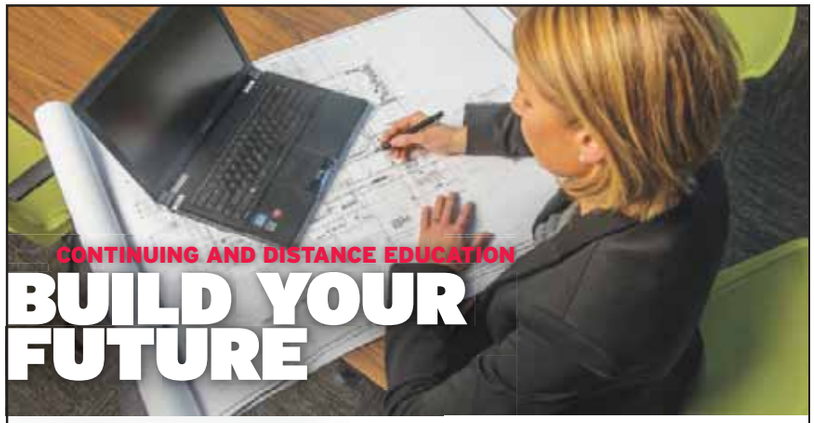

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Charger, a four-year-old mixed-breed, was placed in a permanent Calgary home through the Pawsitive Match Rescue Foundation. ROBSON FLETCHER/METRO

Alert. Police warn of online Ebola scams

Calgarians should be cautious of online and email scams, particularly those referencing the Ebola Virus Disease, Calgary police said in a press release Wednesday.

So far, no scams related to Ebola have been reported to police, but a recent advisory from the National Cybersecurity and Communications Integration Center has prompted CPS to remind citizens to be vigilant.

To keep yourself protected online, CPS suggests using anti-virus and anti-spam programs, never opening email attachments or clicking links from unknown sources, not sending confidential information over email and reporting offensive or harassing email to the Internet service provider.

CPS asked that victims of email scams call their non-emergency number at 403-266-1234. METRO

Break-and-enters

Wanted man could be in B.C.: Police

Mounties in British Columbia say a man wanted in Calgary for 10 break-and-enters may be in the Okanagan.

Calgary police issued a public appeal earlier this month, saying Robert Wellingford is wanted in connection to a series of break-and-enters that date back to 2010.

Police say many of the crimes involved the culprit breaking into a store within a strip mall and smashing through drywall in order to get into neighbouring businesses.

Police now believe Wellingford, who is also known as Robert McLaughlin, may be in B.C.

The 53-year-old suspect is described as being six-foot-one and weighing roughly 225 pounds.

He has blonde hair and hazel eyes, and walks with a slight limp.

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House of Commons divided. Lone Ottawa shooter was a criminal, not a 'terrorist,' Mulcair insists

The shooter in last week's deadly attack in Ottawa was a criminal, but not a terrorist — according to NDP Leader Tom Mulcair.

"I don't think we have enough evidence to use that word," Mulcair said at the end of an emotional party caucus meeting Wednesday, one week after Michael Zehaf Bibeau opened fire on a soldier and then on security guards.

"When you look at the history of the individual involved, you see a criminal act, of course," he added.

"But ... I think that we're not in the presence of a terrorist act in the sense that we would understand it."

Mulcair's comments were met with immediate condemnation.

"The RCMP was clear, these were acts of terrorism, (so) these were acts of terrorism," said Justin Trudeau.

"It's ridiculous," added Conservative MP Peter Kent. "It was clearly an act of terror (based on) his background and motivation."

The remark re-emphasized a stark divide in the House of Commons about how to react to the deaths of two Canadian soldiers last week.

Mulcair said it's obvious that Zehaf Bibeau had mental issues, and should be defined merely as a criminal.

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Canadian actor Lucy DeCoutere alleges that Jian Ghomeshi attacked her in 2003. BRIAN ATKINSON/FOR TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Ghomeshi choked me, actor says

'It was shocking.' Eight women now accusing ex-CBC host of abusive behaviour

Eight women from across Canada now accuse former CBC host Jian Ghomeshi of abusive behaviour ranging from allegations of beating and choking without consent, to workplace sexual harassment.

The allegations the Star is probing range from 2002 to the present.

One of the women, popular Canadian television actor Lucy DeCoutere, has agreed to be identified. DeCoutere, who plays Lucy on Trailer Park Boys, recalls an incident in 2003 when she alleges Ghomeshi, without warning or consent, choked her to the point she could not breathe and then slapped her hard three times on the side of her head.

"He did not ask if I was into it. It was never a question. It was shocking to me. The men I have spent time with are loving people," said DeCoutere, who, when she is not acting on the television show, is a captain in the Royal Canadian Air Force in New Brunswick.

Ghomeshi, 47, was fired Sunday from his job as host of Q, a flagship radio show of the publicly funded broadcaster. Ghomeshi has alleged in a lawsuit filed the next day that CBC made a "moral judgment" that his practice of a bondage-sadism sex life was wrong. He is suing the CBC for $55 million for defamation and breach of trust and the corporation has said it will "vigorously" defend itself against Ghomeshi's lawsuit.

The Star has presented Ghomeshi, his lawyers and his public relations staff with the allegations in this story and they have yet to respond.

Two of the women who allege they were physically assaulted also say that before the alleged assaults in his home he introduced them to Big Ears Teddy, a stuffed bear, and he turned the bear around just before he slapped or choked them, saying that "Big Ears Teddy shouldn't see this."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Devin Giamou, left, got punched in the face by a man at a Hamilton bus stop when he posed as a racist and hurled insults at a fellow actor in Muslim dress, right, for a YouTube video. YOUTUBE SCREENGRAB

A blow (in the face) against racism

'Social experiment.'
Bystander at bus stop in Hamilton slugs actor spewing anti-Muslim taunts

Its creators call it a "social experiment" spurred by the gunman's shooting rampage at Parliament Hill in Ottawa last week.

But their three-minute video posted to YouTube Monday shines a spotlight on Hamilton and a handful of people who stood up against anti-Muslim taunts hurled at a bus stop outside Jackson Square.

A young man who identifies himself as Devin Giamou spews the racist remarks.

His anti-Muslim vitriol is put on, just acting for the experiment, but Giamou gets more than a stiff rebuke.

He tells a small clutch of people outside Jackson Square another young man with a beard and in white traditional Muslim dress (who's also an actor for the experiment) shouldn't get on the bus because "he could be armed with explosives."

Giamou's character says, "I don't feel safe so I can't take this bus here," referring to last week's shooting spree, which began with the fatal shot that killed Cpl. Nathan Cirillo of Hamilton.

"I want to take him to another bus. I don't feel safe."

One man immediately pushes back: "You know, you can't stereotype and judge people by their clothes, or their nationality or anything else, you know what I mean? What happened there, it was an incident of fanatics."

A woman pipes up, too: "It was awful and tragic, but I don't think that's any reason to persecute someone just because of what they're wearing."

But Giamou keeps making his case, eventually trying to physically remove his fellow actor. At that point, someone jumps to the Muslim man's defence and slugs Giamou in the face.

After a brief clip that shows him talking to a police officer, Giamou, who has a bloody face, offers this conclusion:

"So the social experiment had a negative ending to it, but it's positive because he stood up for him and I appreciate that, that's good, that's good."

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Plea to delay autopsies of locker infants

Andrea Giesbrecht. Accused's lawyer asks for an independent pathologist to oversee all examinations

The lawyer for a woman accused of hiding the remains of six infants in a storage locker is asking the court to delay autopsies even though they are "90 per cent" complete.

Greg Brodsky, who represents Andrea Giesbrecht, says the autopsies shouldn't go ahead without an independent pathologist present.

Giesbrecht, 40, sat occasionally biting her nails and pursing her lips as Brodsky told an emergency hearing Wednesday that the independent pathologist would observe the examination "with his hands in his pockets and Velcro on his mouth."

Request

"I don't want any further autopsies until this court has ruled."

Andrea Giesbrecht's lawyer Greg Brodsky

"I'm saying for the 155th time, all I want is a pathologist who is competent and accredited to ... observe the autopsies," Brodsky told Judge Brian Corrin as police continued to search Giesbrecht's Winnipeg home.

"I don't want any further autopsy to be done until this court has ruled," Brodsky added.

The hearing was eventually adjourned until Friday.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

A staff member passes the lockers where the remains were found. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Funding bid. Stem cell coalition keen to cement Canada as field leader

A coalition of Canadian stem cell advocates, researchers and charities is calling for $1.5 billion in private and public funding for stem cell therapy over the next 10 years.

The organization's action plan is aimed at cementing Canada's reputation as a stem cell leader, one that uses stem cell science to reduce suffering and death from cardiovascular diseases, cancer, diabetes, vision loss, spinal cord injuries and other conditions.

James Price, the president and CEO of the Canadian Stem Cell Foundation, says the action plan could help millions of people with new, life-changing therapies.

The action plan's call for funding includes $50 million scaled annual average commitment by the federal government.

The Centre for Commercialization of Regenerative Medicine estimates the action plan could also create more than 12,000 jobs due to the growth of existing companies and the development of new enterprises aimed at global markets.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canadian Stem Cell foundation CEO James Price THE CANADIAN PRESS/HO, CSCF

In numbers

12,000

Estimated amount of jobs that could be created if the stem cell coalition receives the $1.5 billion it is calling for.

Air tests conducted

Military feared effects of Nunavut 'dumpcano' fumes

The military fretted over fumes coming off Iqaluit's notorious dump fire during this summer's Arctic training exercise, new documents show.

Personnel deployed to Nunavut's capital for Operation Nanook stayed near the four-storey pile of burning trash — known locally as the "dumpcano" after the city's fire chief compared it to a volcano of garbage. Plumes of smoke rose from the smouldering heap for almost four months until firefighters finally doused it in September. Documents obtained by The Canadian Press under the Access to Information Act show the military had jitters about putting its people so close to the dump fire and its smoke.

So it tested the air and soil around the barracks and hangars where personnel would stay for the operation. Those tests showed minimal risk to personnel.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sri Lankan men stand at the site of a mudslide at the Koslanda tea plantation in the Badulla district, 220 kilometres east of Colombo, Wednesday. Officials said the mudslides claimed six people, with 150 missing. ERANGA JAYAWARDENA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

At least 150 Sri Lankans missing after mudslide

Six confirmed deaths. With 120 plantation workers' homes destroyed, citizens unaccounted for feared dead

A mudslide triggered by monsoon rains buried scores of workers' houses at a tea plantation in central Sri Lanka on Wednesday, raising fears that more than 100 have been killed.

In the chaos that followed, there was confusion about the number of dead and missing because government officials reported different figures and later reduced the number of missing by 100 without explanation.

The mudslide struck at about 7:30 a.m. and wiped out 120 workers' homes at the Koslanda tea plantation, said Lal Sarath Kumara, an official from the Disaster Management Center. The plantation is in the town of Koslanda in Badulla district, 220 kilometres east of Colombo.

He said at least 10 people were killed and more than 250 reported missing.

Later, Disaster Management Minister Mahinda Amaraweera was quoted by media as saying that more than 100 people had been killed, only to tell The Associated Press moments later that less than 100, were missing but could not be counted as dead. By late Wednesday they declared six dead with 150 missing, promising greater clarity to media by Thursday morning.

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An extra $46 per Canadian could help cut homelessness

Annual report.
Lead author argues with a budget surplus, some of that money should go to fight homelessness in Canada

Spending an extra $46 per Canadian a year on affordable housing could dramatically reduce homelessness, a new research report concludes.

Existing intervention programs can only go so far if those who find a way off the streets or out of shelters can't afford their own place to live, say researchers from York University and the Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness.

Their annual State of Homelessness in Canada study was published today.

With a budget surplus on the horizon, it's time to return to the days when federal cash was directly spent on building those places, said Stephen Gaetz, the director of the Canadian Observatory on Homelessness at York and one of the lead authors of the study.

"It's time to have a conversation — what are we going to do with that surplus?" he said.

"This is one that isn't going to break the bank. It's going to help not only end chronic homelessness but it's going to help many, many, many thousands of Canadians who are at risk of homelessness."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

A fork in the road: Fiat Chrysler spins off Ferrari

A technician works on an engine at the Ferrari plant in Maranello, Italy, in 2013. Fiat Chrysler Automobiles plans to spin off sports-car maker Ferrari into a separate company, a way to unlock value in the luxury brand and distinguish it from its mass-market automaker parent. The company said Wednesday that spinning off Ferrari was part of a plan to raise capital to support the newly merged carmakers' expansion plans. Fiat Chrysler's five-year plan calls for increasing net income by five times by 2018. Fiat Chrysler CEO Sergio Marchionne said in a statement that it was "proper that we pursue separate paths for FCA and Ferrari" following the completion of the merger of Chrysler and Fiat with a listing on the New York Stock Exchange earlier this month. MARCO VASINI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Changes

Lac-Mégantic tragedy leads to new safety rules

The Conservative government has unveiled a new set of rules aimed at improving rail safety in Canada.

The new rules come following the Lac-Mégantic, Que., derailment, which killed 47 people in July 2013.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market Minute

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COSTUMES: POMPEII OK, PISTORIUS NO WAY

HE SAYS
John Mazerolle
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Ladies and gentleman, start your Twitters! It's Halloween season, which means it's time to be morally outraged by dumb people dressing up offensively.

I've been flexing my thumbs in preparation.

Every year people dress up as their favourite atrocities, racial stereotypes and "sexy" whatevers, showing that the really scary thing about Halloween is the deep, dark depths of human obliviousness. A great Halloween costume is a thing of beauty, but many people make it clear we should have left the holiday to the kids. As a public service to mouthbreathers, here's a quick list of things you shouldn't do if you want to avoid becoming a social-media sensation.

1. DO NOT bring sexy back: Every year we're inundated with "sexy" costumes, where "sexy" is roughly equivalent to "cleavage" and/or "inappropriately cold for late October." There's nothing wrong with that, but it's a bit lazy and played out. At least stick with things where "sexy" makes sense (cats, cops, humour columnists).

Too many costumes are just random nouns with "sexy" in front of it, like the "sexy hockey fan" costume (making the rounds on Twitter, natch), which is just a tight costume, a purse and the words "Puck U" on the front. Erotic! Please, let's save the bunnies for Easter. And, of course, don't sexualize your kids' costumes. There's a "girl's" firefighter costume in the news this year that replaced the helmet and uniform with a fascinator and a skirt. Put gender roles aside for a second: We are raising a generation of terrible firefighters. You may roll your eyes at political correctness now, but wait until they show up at your burning house 20 years from now with a handbag instead of a hose.

2. DO NOT dress as bad news. I can pretty much guarantee one Twitter outrage this year: Someone, somewhere, is going to dress as Oscar Pistorius. I'm certain mostly because it perfectly hits the Venn diagram of being a sensitive issue on four fronts: race, gender, gun use, and disability. What a perfect convergence for some guy to smash through in one swift movement because he thought of a "hilarious" idea while posting to #Gamergate. I hate him preemptively.

If you feel the need to dress as bad news, you have two options: fictional bad news (HAL 9000!) or bad news so old that nobody alive has any relatives who died in it. Pompeii it up.

3. DO NOT dress as any culture or race but your own: It's become an annual tradition to wait in anticipation for an NHL player to reveal himself in blackface, followed by the ceremonial cry of "What's the big deal?", followed by the communal sharing of the explanatory Wikipedia links. Soothing and reassuring, really.

Here's a helpful hint: If you're thinking, "Hmmm ... something in the way of cultural appropriation this year," why not try your own culture? As a white, middle-class, middle-age male, I'm considering "Guy Who Likes Pumpkin Spice Lattes" or "Guy Who Doesn't Own a Television."

For a woman it's almost the same. Just add a fascinator. Retweet if you agree!

Metro Bitstrips caption contest

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MetroTube

If you missed National Cat Day ...

ANDREW FIFIELD
andrew.fifield@metronews.ca

SCREENGRAB

National Cat Day is a seemingly weekly event that provides Twitter users with a novel opportunity to share pictures of their felines online. Kevin Richardson is a man who knows his way around a cat, particularly the lions of South Africa. And while National Cat Day has passed, it seems as good an excuse as any to show the amazing GoPro footage captured when he strapped one to the back of a lioness. Warning to the sensitive: Eventually the cat finds some prey, and things don't go well for it at all.(GoPro/YouTube)

Letters

RE: Jian Ghomeshi Case Highlights Why Some Women Don't Report Assaults: Column, published online Oct. 27. 2014 I would like to commend Ruth Davenport on her column pertaining to the Ghomeshi debacle. She conveyed the sentiments of many women, but also of many men, like myself, who are offended by the systematic abuse of both men and women (but mainly women) under the guise of consenting personal sexual preferences. The CBC has an image/brand to protect and if it is made public that anyone in their employ acts in a manner that is contrary to that image/brand then I feel they pretty much have the right to dismiss (them). More importantly, women (or men) that have suffered abuse should be encouraged by our law enforcement to come forward and testify and not subjected to the negative attitudes that currently prevail. Victims should be protected. **Steve Reeve, Toronto**

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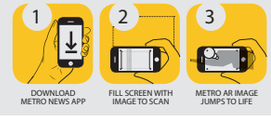

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CarProof SIRIUS

Revamped Calgary club offers modern take on the speakeasy

Time to imbibe. New Prohibition-themed cocktail bar is aimed at the after-work crowd

LUCY HAINES
calgary@metronews.ca

One of the club's bartenders in action. CONTRIBUTED

The location of Calgary's newly reopened Standard Modern Speakeasy and Social Club is about as cool as what's happening inside.

With an entrance in an alleyway near the C-Train stop at 1st St. SW, the space harkens back to a 1920s, Prohibition-era speakeasy — a secret club for those wanting a forbidden drink that would open with a special knock and password at the door.

While the underground social club and dance floor, holding some 400, is the same as it was before the reopening, it's the intimate main-floor space that has been reimagined with Great Gatsby-esque dark wood decor, an elevated level of service and high-end classic cocktails.

"We want to offer something upscale for the downtown after-work crowd, with real ingredients and craft bartending techniques," said Standard's marketing director Carol Yan. "There's a lot of new beer halls in the Calgary market, but something like this was missing."

The charm of an Old Fashioned or Manhattan will likely tempt the sophisticated, more mature crowd, especially each Tuesday to Thursday when it's only the speakeasy that's open.

But come the weekend, customers can wander from underground dance club to speakeasy and back again, enjoying electro-swing or jazz music on one level, and DJ-led popular dance music underground.

For this weekend's double-header, patrons will be entertained by flapper dancers, free tarot card readings and a candy bar, courtesy of The Sugar Cube.

There will be prizes for best costume, and staff will be decked out Halloween style on Friday, and in Great Gatsby garb the next night.

The Standard marketing team has a big social media presence, too, with Instagram, Facebook and Twitter. A photographer is even set to snap photos and post to Facebook most weekends.

"We want to offer quality and value and get the word out so downtown Calgary can discover us," says Yan.

If you go...

A double-header event celebrates the club's reopening: Freakshow, (on Oct. 31) and the Great Gatsby Bash (on Nov. 1) will feature costumes, themed cocktails and prizes. Visit standardyyc.com for more information.

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One Direction fan spins a torrid tale

Books. Since posting risqué stories about a Harry Styles-esque character, Anna Todd has book, film deals

When the family of One Direction fan fiction writer Anna Todd found out the 25-year-old Texan had authored a steamy online book series captivating millions of readers, they were shocked.

"I didn't tell my husband until I was halfway through the second book. He thought I had a phone addiction," Todd says, giggling. "I was always on my phone, but he didn't know what I was doing."

The surprise for Todd's army husband came in 2013, months after she used online writing platform Wattpad to incrementally release her first book, After, a story about a college girl who falls in love with a character modelled after One Direction's Harry Styles.

Since then, Todd has been catapulted to stardom. She's written two more Wattpad stories, scored a major book deal with Simon and Schuster, sold the film rights to After to Paramount Pictures, and launched a jewelry line.

The success, she says, has made it hard for her to even go shopping without being recognized. It's a strange experience for someone who never imagined making a career out of writing from the backseats of cabs, the waiting room at her doctor's office or the aisles of grocery stores.

"I had no idea what to expect when I first started writing," she says. "I never expected it to turn into this."

She admits she's caught "a little bit" of flack for the sexual nature and risqué scenes described in her books, which some compare to erotic series Fifty Shades of Grey.

"My intention wasn't for anyone who wasn't mature enough to read it," she says. "The characters are 18 and 20, so I was reflecting their age range and I wasn't intending for this to be a One Direction fan-based thing."

She's also faced the scorn of avid One Direction followers, who believe Todd has wrongfully portrayed Styles as a bad boy with a predilection for emotionally abusing women and stirring up trouble.

In an outpouring of social media postings with hashtags like #StopAnnaTodd and #SuspendAnnaTodd, former fans have called on readers to boycott Todd's work.

For the most part, she has ignored the controversy.

"Everyone has an opinion and it seems that the negative voices can be the loudest, but I chose to focus on the positive comments from readers," she says. "They make this whole process worthwhile and so much fun."

She says the instant support demonstrates the power of the online community and the Toronto-based Wattpad platform she uses, which allows users to read and write their own stories through an online portal or mobile app.

The company says nine billion minutes are spent on their platform every month by users reading 75 million free stories ranging in length and genre.

According to Wattpad general manager Candice Faktor, the most popular areas are romance, science fiction and mystery, but Todd has led a burgeoning wave of millennials gravitating toward fan fiction and mobile readers.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Quoted

"My intention wasn't for anyone who wasn't mature enough to read it. The characters are 18 and 20, so I was reflecting their age range. I wasn't intending (it) to be a One Direction fan-based thing."

Anna Todd, fan fiction author, on controversial sex scenes in her online stories

Anna Todd recently sold the rights to a story she wrote about a college girl who falls in love with a character modelled after Harry Styles. J.D. WITKOWSKI

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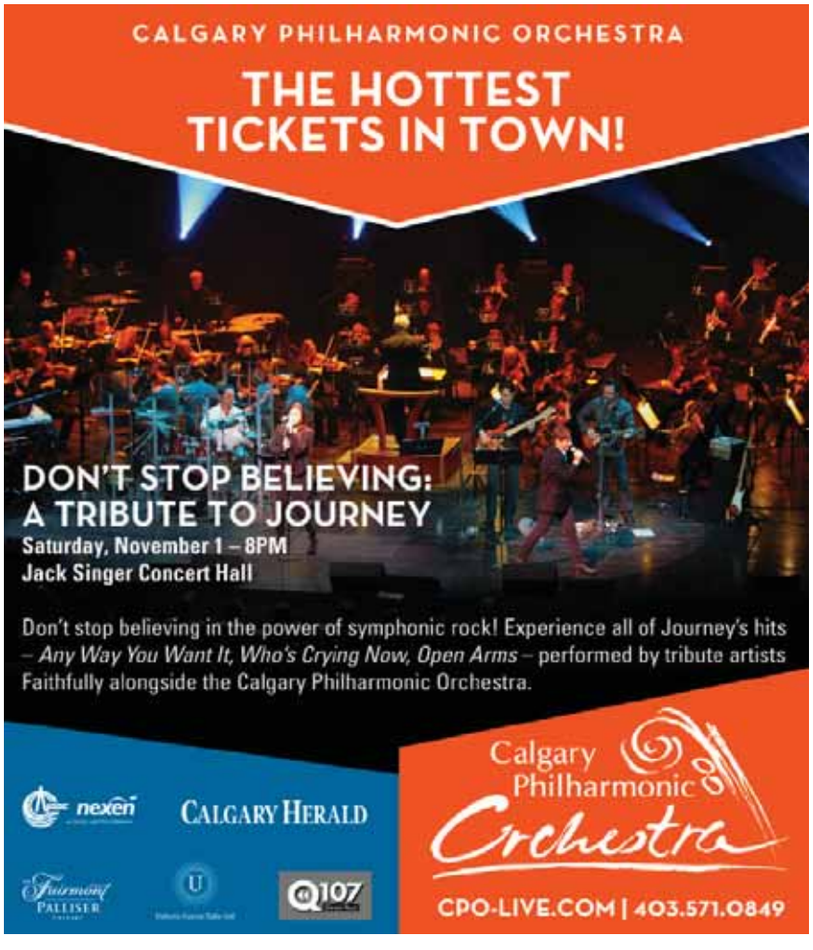
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Italian actor Lorenzo Richelmy plays the travelling merchant in the title role of Marco Polo. NETFLIX

Streaming. Netflix gets adventurous with Marco Polo

Netflix has begun promoting its latest original series, an action and adventure drama slated to premiere worldwide on Friday, Dec. 12. A new video reveals the first scenes from Marco Polo's adventures in the court of the Mongol emperor Kublai Khan.

After House of Cards, Orange Is the New Black and Hemlock Grove, Netflix has shifted its focus to action, adventure and history with Marco Polo. Set in the 13th century, the 10 episodes are a fictionalized take on the Venetian merchant's adventures in the court of Kublai Khan, the grandson of Genghis Khan and future emperor of China. Political betrayals, forbidden romance and martial arts battles are all in store.

Italian actor Lorenzo Richelmy stars as Marco Polo opposite actress Zhu Zhu (Cloud Atlas) as the woman who captures his heart. Joan Chen, Remy Hii, Olivia Cheng, Claudia Kim, Uli Latukefu, Chin Han and Tom Wu round out the cast.

Created by John Fusco (Hidalgo), the drama is produced by The Weinstein Company. The episodes are directed by Joachim Ronning and Espen Sandberg, the duo behind Kon-Tiki and the next movie in the Pirates of the Caribbean franchise.

The entire first season of Marco Polo will arrive on Netflix December 12 in all of the countries where the platform is available. AFP

Television

Warner working on Superman origin series

The new Fox series Gotham seems to have inspired producers at Warner. According to Bleedingcool.com, the studio is developing a Superman series entitled Krypton. After watching Batman's origin story unfold on Fox's Gotham, superhero fans may soon get a show on Superman's early years. Judging by its title, Krypton will likely be set on the DC character's home planet. AFP

Music

Science backs belief that pop stars die young

A new Australian study has added scholarly credibility to the adage that pop stars live fast and die young, finding U.S. musicians die up to 25 years earlier than the general population. "This is clear evidence that all is not well in pop music land," said the University of Sydney's Dianna Kenny, who analyzed the deaths of 12,665 mostly male U.S. musicians between 1950 and 2014. The psychology and music professor found that pop stars' accidental death rates were between five and 10 times greater than the general U.S. population, while suicide rates were between two and seven times higher. AFP

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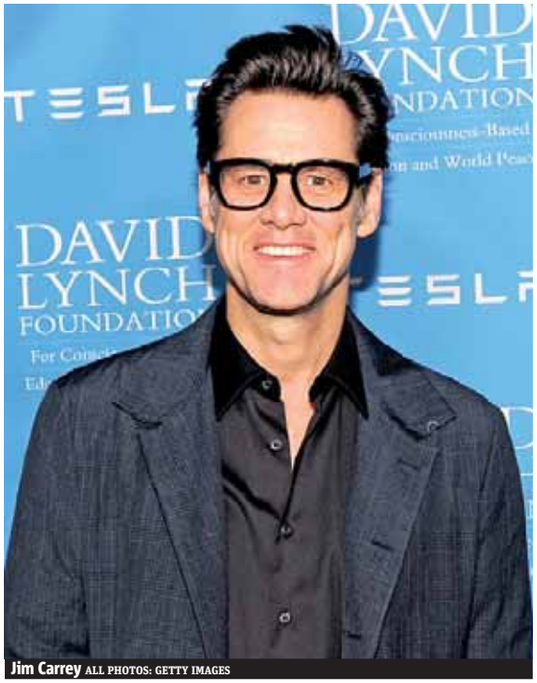


Jim Carrey ALL PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES

Carrey isn't the type to marry ... for a third time

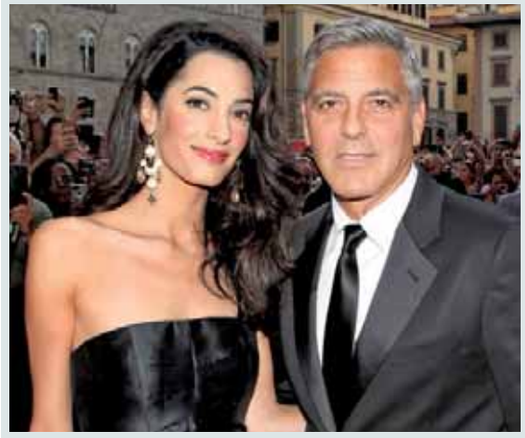
Jim Carrey is no longer the marrying kind, apparently. "I just don't see it as necessary at this point," the twice-divorced 52-year-old grandfather tells Howard Stern during an interview. "Is it really sacred? I don't know."

Deep, probing questions, to be sure. But more telling seems to be what years of fame seem to have done to Carrey's outlook on romance in general: "If you hook up with someone who is famous, you become a sellable commodity and that's the most important thing in those magazines," he says.

"It's not what you're doing in the movie. It's who you are with, what are you doing, are you breaking up?"

And I'm sure that after hearing such a good point about the whole business, Stern immediately abstained from asking any further questions about Carrey's personal life.

The Word



Clooney party inconveniences commoners

NED EHRBAR
Metro in Hollywood

It turns out that entertaining George Clooney and Amal Alamuddin can be bad for business. A recent soiree thrown by the newlyweds at the Danesfield House hotel in Buckinghamshire, England, left other guests feeling a bit overlooked. Clooney's fabulous, swanky affair apparently necessitated renting out half the hotel's rooms.

One guest posted to TripAdvisor, "Booked afternoon tea two months in advance for very special occasion for family, never got to go as was canceled one week beforehand due to exclusive event taking over the hotel. ... Won't book with them again."

Sounds like something out of Downton Abbey, honestly.

Twitter

@GarryShandling
I don't normally believe in curses but the Lakers should get a shaman in there as fast as possible.

@therealroseanne
obama was put in office by banksters who wanted to make sure that the president after him would be Jeb Bush.

@billyeichner
I know you guys want to be sexy AND topical but PLEASE don't dress up as Slutty ISIS this weekend.

Katie Holmes

Don't put Katie in the Cruise corner

Katie Holmes does not want to be defined by her divorce from Tom Cruise, you guys, so stop asking about it. "I don't want that moment in my life to define me, to be who I am. I don't want that to be what I'm known as," she tells People magazine. In fact, that's just the beginning of Holmes' batch of don'ts. "I don't have any fear now, I don't have a lot of rules for myself and I don't take myself that seriously." But what do you do, Katie? Aside from humour People magazine when they ask about the divorce you've made it clear you don't want to talk about? Although I can see that takes up a lot of your time.

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LIFE 3

PLUS HOMES

Wang throws down the new urban uniform for H&M

Style. The designer's take on day-to-night dressing includes a stop at the gym

Alexander Wang's line for H&M hits stores Nov. 6 CONTRIBUTED

A quick scan of the crowd gathered for Alexander Wang's H&M debut revealed the fashion set's new unofficial uniform: sleek black everything and sneakers.

It seems that every editor present ditched her stilettos for the multi-part extravaganza — which included a morning press conference downtown, an evening fashion show way uptown, followed by an after-hours pop-up shop and concert — which was totally fitting.

Wang has championed effortless, off-duty dressing since launching his label in 2004. For Spring '15, the designer drew inspiration from "the phenomenon of sneaker culture." Now his much-hyped H&M collaboration takes on active wear.

"A lot of my friends are gym fanatics and go to SoulCycle," explains Wang about the starting point for his capsule.

The designer, who has a sixth sense for how tastemakers want to dress, stresses that these days sporty clothes aren't just relegated to the gym.

"There's a lot of people like me: I'm not an athlete, I don't work out, but I wear gym clothes almost everyday," he says.

Further proving his point that fashion-inspired fitness is a thing, Beyoncé recently announced a new partnership with TopShop to produce an athletic streetwear label.

"People have such active lifestyles that they want to be comfortable. They want to be able to move and take the subway and run around," says Wang.

If there's anyone who understands our fast-paced lives, full of multitasking and meals on the go, it's Wang. In addition to designing his eponymous multi-million dollar brand, the 30-year-old was named creative director of Balenciaga in 2012. And somewhere in the mix he managed to create this collection for the Swedish fast-fashion retailer — which, he stressed, isn't a lower-priced version of his greatest hits. These designs are brand new.

"For me I always try to push forward and discover a new conversation that I haven't necessarily done before, while staying very true to the approach of ease, the approach of being unpretentious, the approach of being comfortable," he says.

METRO

Our favourite looks from Alexander Wang x H&M

Hoodie, $69.95

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Ingredients

- 12 large fat white asparagus
- 1 blood orange
- 1 tbsp whipping (35 percent fat) cream
- Sea salt and freshly ground black pepper
- 1/2 cup (4 ounces / 115 g) cold unsalted butter

"If you can't find blood oranges you can use a regular orange, but the flavour won't be quite the same," writes Jennifer McLagan in her book Bitter.

"This sauce is an orange butter sauce made exactly the same way you would make a white butter sauce (beurre blanc), but using orange juice instead of wine. The cream is added to make the sauce more stable. Two important things to remember when making this sauce: use a heavy pan that transfers the heat slowly and evenly, and watch carefully as you whisk in the butter. If your sauce overheats, you can let it cool down slightly, add a splash of water, and whisk it back together."

1. Cook the asparagus (place in a pan of boiling water so they are in a single layer. Lower the heat and simmer for 15-25 minutes. You want them cooked, not crunchy).

2. While asparagus is cooking, finely grate the zest from the orange and then squeeze the juice. Place both the zest and the juice in a small saucepan and bring to a boil over medium high heat. Reduce the heat and boil gently until the mixture is reduced to about 2 tablespoons. Stir in the cream and season with salt and pepper.

3. Drain the cooked asparagus and keep warm in a low oven.

4. Cut the butter into 6 pieces. Place the pan with the juice and cream mix over very low heat and slowly whisk in the butter, incorporating each piece before adding another. While you're whisking, keep the sauce warm, so that the mixture emulsifies and the butter doesn't melt into the sauce. When the butter is incorporated, taste, adjust the seasoning, and serve over the cooked asparagus. **FROM BITTER © 2014 BY JENNIFER MCLAGAN. PUBLISHED BY HARPERCOLLINS CANADA. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.**

This recipe serves four. AYA BRACKETT

Cookbook of the Week

The yum factor in bitter bites

In some places (think Italy and parts of Asia), bitter flavours are appreciated. In North America, sweet and savoury nab the culinary spotlight. Jennifer McLagan is out to change that with her book Bitter. Through science, culture, history and 100 recipes, McLagan explores bitter bites in all of their aspects. Recipes include Arugula Pizza, Cardoon Beef Tagine, Methi and Spinach with Baked Eggs, Grapefruit Tart and more. **METRO**

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Tip me over and pour me out

It's the time of year when hot drinks (spiked or not) become fashionable for entertaining. Forget the single-brew pours — instead, offer up warming bevvies from some of the hottest serving vessels on the market

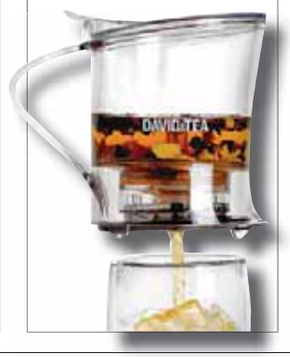
DESIGN CENTRE
Karl Lohnes
home@metronews.ca

Catch red-handled

Coffee and tea service can now travel all around the house when entertaining, thanks to this carafe. Primula Kata Soft Grip 1.5-litre Thermal Carafe, $37, BedBathAndBeyond.ca.

Steep for joy

Pour hot water, let steep and then release into the cup for hot or cold tea — easy as 1-2-3. The 32-ounce Steeper, $30, DavidsTea.ca.



Take to flask

Serve your favourite hot beverage at the game or just on the balcony. Kullar Steel Vacuum Flask, $10, IKEA.com.

Let it drip

Retro drip-coffee style comes right to the dining table in heavy-duty, yet lightweight glass. Hario V60 Range Server, $30, CrateAndBarrel.com.

Hot off the press

Tall and sleek is the best way to brew coffee at the table. La Cafatiere Lexi Bone China Coffee Press, 900ml, $120, TheBay.com.

Come into bloom

Marimekko's famous Unikko fabric brings charm to the table in the form of a Unikko Teapot, $98, EQ3.com.

SALES MANAGER

Metro Calgary is looking for a passionate and committed Sales Manager to manage the everyday functions of the Calgary sales department. The successful candidate will be responsible for the development and growth of evolving sales strategies and advertising solutions in order to effectively compete in the marketplace, achievement of sales targets, page yields and the development of new revenue streams.

PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES:

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- Lead major department projects with budget accountability

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- Sales management training preferred
- Minimum of 3-5 years experience in a sales management role in the Calgary market
- Experience selling to retailer and/or small-medium business directly
- Excellent oral and written presentation, communication and negotiation skills
- Superior ability to manage a sales team utilizing a Customer Relationship Management System (CRM)
- Ability to problem solve and make decisions in a dynamic, ever-changing environment
- A passion for creativity; an entrepreneurial spirit
- Proficient in Microsoft Office applications

Interested individuals who possess the skills described above are requested to submit their resumé and cover letter via email to hr@metronews.ca no later than November 4th.

PLEASE QUOTE: "Sales Manager - Calgary" in the Subject Line.
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Clamp legs bring something new to the table

DIY. Legs with built-in clamps can turn any surface material into a one-of-a-kind table

Furnishing a home that will create a lasting impression can sometimes be difficult to accomplish without the right resources. It's not always easy to find time to browse countless home and furniture stores. With the help of clamp legs, customizing furniture has never been easier.

These innovative table legs are equipped with built-in clamps at the top of each leg. The four legs help support the weight of the surface material while the integrated clamps at the top of each leg help hold everything in place and give it stability. Clamp legs provide endless possibilities for creating personalized tables, stools, and benches.

More salvage ideas

Find out how to salvage other materials around the home with the season premiere of Salvage Dawgs, Tuesdays at 10 p.m. ET/PT on DIY Network Canada.

What you need to know

Clamp legs are all about customizing and creating home furniture. They come in different sizes and a variety of colours to suit individual needs. With built-in clamps, the legs' design makes assembling and disassembling furniture a quick and easy process.

A kitchen table built with clamp legs helps bypass the hassle of getting an awkwardly shaped table into a home. The furniture is also easy to store and pack for those who move around a lot or need to create extra space.

Gathering materials

First, purchase and prepare the selected surface material. This way, matching the clamp legs to the surface becomes much easier. To select the surface material, visit a hardware store to purchase new sheets of wood that are ready to use or recycle old furniture. Use an old door, various pieces of a dresser, or even the table top of an old desk.

Don't be afraid to incorporate other materials such as plastic, glass, or an old countertop. Mix and match pieces like an old door and a glass top to create an even surface.

Legwork

Give people something to talk about with the many furniture pieces that can be built with the help of clamp legs. One of their greatest benefits is the availability of different sizes. With longer clamp legs and some wood, build a table for the kitchen or the front entrance. Smaller clamp legs are great for a new bedside table or even a coffee table for the living room. But don't stop there: Get creative and build a funky bench or stool perfect for any room.

Assembling tables from salvaged materials is easy using legs with built-in clamps (inset). THE FLOYD LEG/KICKSTARTER

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Security. Guaranteed 'zombie-proof' cabin unveiled just in time for Halloween

A zombie attack could happen at any time — but with Halloween just around the corner, it's best to be prepared.

Luckily, a U.K. building company has launched the ZFC-1 Zombie Fortification Cabin, a zombie-proof shed offering guaranteed protection against "all forms of possible zombie attacks."

Comprising three sections separated by lockable doors for extra security, the cabin features a garage (for the getaway car), built-in food storage units and a residential area including a living room, kitchen, bedroom, toilet and a gym.

A plasma TV, an Xbox, a fireplace and kitchen units have all been incorporated into the concept.

Additional defence features include decking, which provides a panoramic vantage point for spotting any approaching zombies and extra secure doors and double glazed windows.

The wooden cabin is made from 44 mm-thick timber, with cut logs along the side of the building making it almost impossible for zombies to climb on to the roof. Barbed wire has been added, just in case. Extra features including solar panels and security cameras can also be added to the structure. AFP

Medical evidence required

The brainchild of Tiger Log Cabins, the ZFC-1 can be purchased for a starting price of approximately $113,000 US.

- **The cabin comes with a 10-year guarantee — although "medical evidence of the presence of a real zombie" is required.**

The ZFC-1 Zombie Fortification Cabin. TIGERLOGCABIN.COM

Furniture. Props to leaning clothes rail that can be taken anywhere

It might look like furniture from a slick boutique, but this new clothing rail, which can be left propped up against any wall and disassembled in minutes, could be the next stylish alternative to bulky wardrobes.

Untitled Rail is a flexible option for micro living, featuring a bend which means it can be leaned against a wall for clothes storage that takes up minimal floor space.

The brainchild of French designer Marc Schulthess, the rail is made using the same tube-bending technique employed by modernists such as Le Corbusier.

The steel structure disassembles into four parts and is available in two different sizes of either 40 cm or 82 cm in width.

The Untitled Rail
KICKSTARTER/MARC SCHULTHESS

The idea was to create fashionable, portable storage for an urban generation constantly moving cities or simply travelling.

Currently listed on crowdfunding website Kickstarter, the rail can currently be ordered for pledges of about $160 US or more. AFP

Furniture

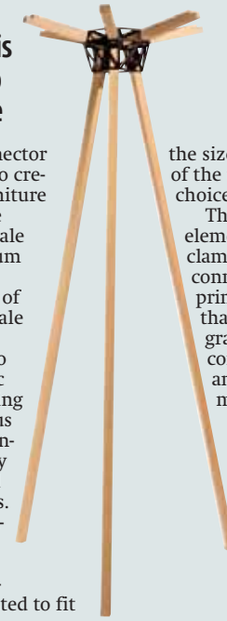
3D connector is all you need to build furniture

A 3D-printed connector that can be used to create a range of furniture pieces took centre stage at the Biennale Interieur in Belgium this past week.

The brainchild of design studio Minale Meada, Keystones allows furniture to be built with basic materials by holding together its various components, meaning that no joinery skills are required to assemble pieces.

Currently available for tables and coat stands, Keystone's dimensions can be adjusted to fit the size and height of the table and the choice of material.

The furniture elements are clamped into the connector via printed screws that are integrated into the connectors and clamp the material. AFP



Keystones by Minale Meada
BIENNALE INTERIEUR

Appliance. Alternative to kettle lets you drink tea while helping the planet

Is your tea habit killing the planet? Overfilling the kettle is something that 65 per cent of Brits admit to — but a handy new alternative could save time, water and energy.

Miito allows you to heat liquid directly in your mug, teapot or saucepan, using only the exact amount of water needed.

Comprising an induction base and a metal heating rod which is placed inside the vessel, the system can be used on a variety of liquids such as soup or milk, and functions via "wireless energy transfer."

According to the Miito team, one day of energy saved from overfilling kettles would be enough to light all of the streetlights in England for a night.

Miito heating rod. CHUDY AND GRASE

The brainchild of designer Nils Chudy and his team, the concept made its debut last week at Dutch Design Week. The product is currently in the development stages and is not yet commercially available. AFP

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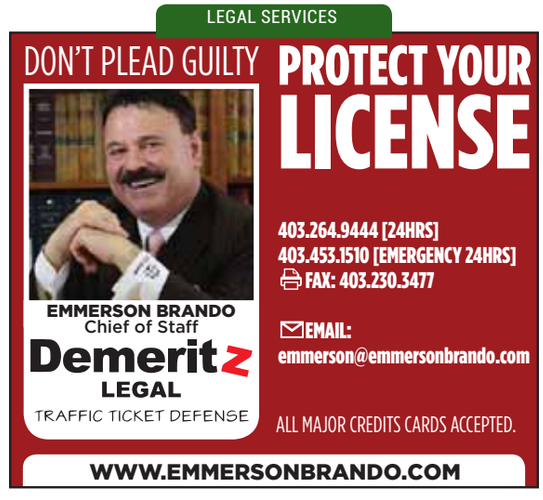

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NBA

Raptors hang on to beat Hawks in season opener

Jonas Valanciunas had 17 points to lead the Toronto Raptors to a 109-102 season-opening victory over a pesky Atlanta Hawks squad Wednesday night.

But it was an anxious finish for Toronto, which led 90-71 early in the fourth on consecutive baskets from Valanciunas. Atlanta was able to pull to within four points at 103-99 with 1:26 left, but Patrick Patterson's dunk with about 13 seconds remaining cemented the win.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

CFL

Argos GM fined for sideline antics

Toronto Argonauts general manager Jim Barker was fined $2,500 by the CFL on Wednesday for violating the league's sideline policy.

Barker positioned himself on the goal-line directly behind an official in an attempt to communicate with that official, during last Saturday's game between the Argos and Hamilton Tiger-Cats.

Barker will not be permitted on the sidelines for the remainder of the Argos' season.

Tiger-Cats owner Bob Young has also been fined $10,000 for public comments criticizing CFL officiating. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Buster Posey, left, and Madison Bumgarner celebrate the final out in Game 7 of the World Series on Wednesday night in Kansas City, Mo. Bumgarner pitched five innings of shutout ball in relief on two days' rest to carry the San Francisco Giants to the championship. JAMIE SQUIRE/GETTY IMAGES

Nothing odd about it: Giants champs again

MLB post-season. On shoulders of Bumgarner, San Fran follows up on 2010 and 2012 World Series wins with another championship in 2014

Game 7

Giants	Royals
3	2

Madison Bumgarner pitched five innings of near-perfect relief and the San Francisco Giants held off the Kansas City Royals 3-2 Wednesday night in Game 7 of the World Series for their third championship in five seasons.

With both starters chased early, this became a matchup of bullpens. And no one stood taller than the six-foot-five Bumgarner, who added to his post-season legacy with a third victory this Series.

After Gregor Blanco misplayed Alex Gordon's drive for a single and two-base error, Bumgarner got Salvador Perez to pop foul to third baseman Pablo Sandoval for the final out.

The Giants ended a Series streak that had seen home teams win the last nine Game 7s. San Francisco took this pairing of wild-card teams after earning titles in 2012 and 2010.

Pitching on two days' rest after his shutout in Game 5, Bumgarner entered in the fifth with a 3-2 lead. After giving up a leadoff single to Omar Infante, he shut down the Royals.

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Rookie's Flames future in doubt

Hit-and-miss. Dazzling but inconsistent performance keeps Gaudreau off Flames' permanent roster

Flames youngster Johnny Gaudreau is finding some success amidst uncertainty in Calgary. DEREK LEUNG/GETTY IMAGES

Johnny Gaudreau was still living in a Calgary hotel seven weeks after reporting to Flames training camp.

The hotel room represents both sides of a coin for Gaudreau. The Flames haven't yet committed to keeping the 21-year-old in the lineup, but they've liked Gaudreau's play enough to keep him in the NHL for now.

"I've got a clean bed made every morning so that's nice," the rookie forward said Wednesday. "I'm going to sit there in the hotel and wait until I'm told to get a place.

"Hopefully, I keep showing I belong here."

Listed at five-foot-nine and 150 pounds by the Flames, there were questions about Gaudreau's ability to take NHL-sized checks over an 82-game season, and whether he should start the season with the American Hockey League's Adirondack Flames in upstate New York.

But Gaudreau led the Flames in shots on net in the pre-season and dazzled with moments of brilliant playmaking. He earned his spot on the opening-day roster, but then managed just one shot on goal in his first five games.

Gaudreau was a healthy scratch Oct. 17 in Columbus. He responded by scoring his first NHL goal of the regular season two days later in Winnipeg.

After getting zero shots on net Saturday against Washington, Gaudreau shone in Calgary's 2-1 shootout loss to Montreal on Tuesday.

He assisted on Calgary's lone goal and put six shots on Canadiens goaltender Carey Price, who stole the game for the Habs.

"That was Johnny's best game," Flames head coach Bob Hartley said. "I felt he was our best forward."

It would have been surprising if Gaudreau's first month in the NHL was a smooth learning curve. While he did turn the puck over during an early power play against Montreal, he hasn't been a major defensive liability despite his inexperience.

After 11 games, the right-winger from Carney's Point, N.J., was plus-five along with a goal and three assists.

"I've definitely been trying hard lately to be better in the defensive zone," Gaudreau said. "I've been talking to the coaching staff and going over clips about things I need to get better at." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Attain the Flame

"Hopefully, I keep showing I belong here."

Flames rookie forward Johnny Gaudreau, who has not yet been signed by the franchise.

Gordie Howe. Family gathers around ailing Mr. Hockey

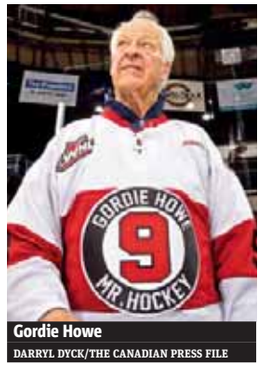
Gordie Howe has a long way to go to recover from a stroke he suffered over the weekend, his son said Wednesday amid an outpouring of support from the hockey community.

"Mr. Hockey" has shown some signs of improvement from what son Mark called a "pretty significant stroke" and is resting at his daughter Cathy's home in Lubbock, Texas.

"It's a difficult time for Dad," Mark Howe said in a phone interview from Lubbock. "It definitely impacted his life, so we're dealing with this, I think, as all families do and just trying to be there. The best thing we can do is just be here and be supportive and try to keep him in good spirits."

Sons Mark, Marty and Murray travelled from their respective homes in New Jersey, Connecticut and Ohio on Tuesday to be with their father, who has been in declining health for the past year. Gordie Howe is 86 and also suffers from a form of dementia.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Gordie Howe
DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

AUGMENTED REALITY

Stuck on 12 Across? Scan this image with your Metro News app for today's crossword and Sudoku answers. It's OK. No one's watching.

→ See the full instructions on Metro's Voices page.

Horoscopes by Sally Brompton

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
If nothing seems to add up today it's because you are trying to solve a problem that has no answer. It's OK to admit it. You don't have to be in control of each and every situation.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
If someone reacts in an emotional way to what you say today then perhaps you should take the hint and steer clear of touchy issues.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
You have a number of duties to attend to and, although you might prefer to ignore them, you feel honour bound to do what is expected of you. You'll be rewarded.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
If you try to limit someone's freedom today, it could rebound on you. Better to give them the space they require. It's unlikely they will wander too far without your approval.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
You may not get the results you expected today but don't worry — in the greater scheme of things you are making substantial progress.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
A change of scene will do you a world of good over the next 24 hours and could even lead to a financial opportunity you might otherwise have missed.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Fix your attention on a certain situation and learn as much as you can. The more you know, the better placed you will be to benefit from coming upheavals.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Make a conscious decision to go with the flow and don't think of it as a defeat if you have to change your plans at the last moment.

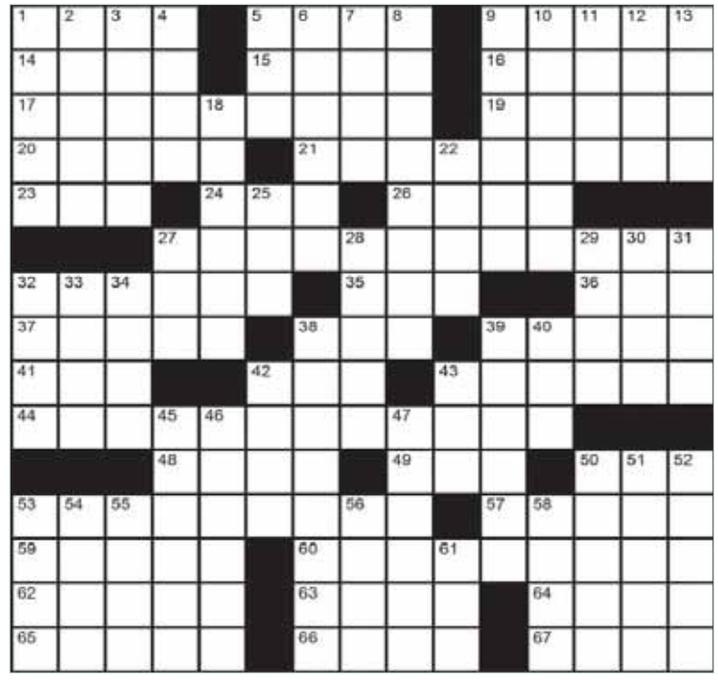
♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
You may feel as if you are getting nowhere fast but on a deeper level you are in fact making considerable progress.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
You may know what is wrong with a certain situation but you are not in a position to put it right. The planets warn you should leave well alone. The cosmic picture will change over the next few days.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Your mind may be bursting with big ideas but what use are they if you don't knit them together into a coherent and workable plan? Bring those big ideas down to a human level.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Someone you haven't seen for a while will come back into your life and the effect on your feelings could be dramatic. Don't get carried away. They've changed a lot, and so have you.

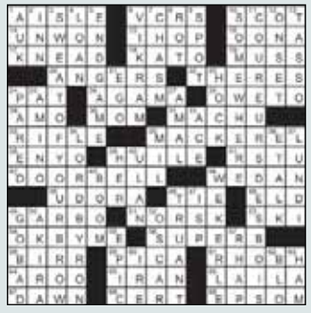
Crossword: Canada Across and Down by Kelly Ann Buchanan



Across
1. Rocky Mountains animal
5. Country singer's 2001 to 2007 sitcom
9. Fred Flintstone exclamation bit
14. Apiece
15. Richard of "A Summer Place" (1959)
16. The Hunter constellation
17. Tactical
19. "__ you!" (Response to an Achoo!)
20. "A League of __ Own" (1992)
21. The art of making sense
23. Cousin of -enne
24. Promise to pay
26. Biblical land
27. Montreal's is Rue Sainte-Catherine; Toronto's is Yonge Street ...what is Edmonton's main thoroughfare?: 2 wds.
32. Mike __, Mayor of Halifax
35. Speed __.
36. Li'l mailbox item
37. Inclined
38. Up to, briefly
39. Domicile
41. __ Radio-Canada
42. Jammies
43. Don __, Mayor of Edmonton
44. Halifax band Joel Plaskett fronted: 2 wds.
48. Commotion
49. Retro albums, briefly
50. Scott Weiland gr.
53. In-pain athlete's injection
57. Ice Cube, aka __ Jackson
59. __ cake
60. Bicycle support
62. Chicago's airport
63. Zeno of __ (Ancient Greek philosopher)
64. Hanna-Barbera specialty [abbr.]
65. Nervous
66. Take a break
67. Richard of reels

Down
1. Gary Cooper movie, "Beau __" (1939)
2. Vows
3. Property measures
4. Language spoken in Bangkok
5. Riddle-me-__
6. Dishware item at breakfast
7. Scott of "Charles in Charge"
8. Rachael __ (Marlo Cruz on Global TV's "Rookie Blue")
9. Nina of "The Vampire Diaries"
10. Ms. Dickinson of "Dragons' Den"
11. "Tres __!"
12. Particular pear
13. Grande-__, village in New Brunswick
18. Emergency Room who-needs-care-first process
22. Wax-coated cheese
25. Suffix with 'Lact'
27. Marcia and Cindy's sister
28. Actress, Kimberly __
29. Modernists
30. Take apart
31. Level
32. Skewer
33. Ingrid Bergman movie, "__ of Triumph" (1948)
34. See: French
38. William Shatner's '80s police series, "_-_-__"
39. Dispatch boats
40. Wager
42. Really smart letters
43. Little devil
45. Verbalizes
46. Evening party
47. Volleyballer-turned-author Gabrielle's
50. Western film of 1953 starring Alan Ladd
51. Hold: French
52. __ Amidala, Natalie Portman's 'Star Wars' movies role
53. Curdle
54. South Dakota dam
55. Macklemore & __ Lewis
56. River famous since ancient times
58. Groom-to-be's party
61. Chocolate treat, with Kit

Yesterday's Crossword



Online

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers

Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

Yesterday's Sudoku

6	1	5	3	2	7	4	9	8
4	9	3	8	5	1	6	7	2
7	8	2	4	6	9	3	1	5
1	6	8	2	9	3	7	5	4
5	7	4	6	1	8	2	3	9
2	3	9	5	7	4	8	6	1
3	2	6	9	8	5	1	4	7
8	5	7	1	4	6	9	2	3
9	4	1	7	3	2	5	8	6

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

		7		6		9		
	4						1	
1			4		7			2
		9				4		
3								5
		2				6		
5			1		6			7
	7						9	
		6		5		3		

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